

Unequal World in Crisis: what will it take to govern for health?

Professor Fran Baum AO

Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity

People's Health Movement - Australia

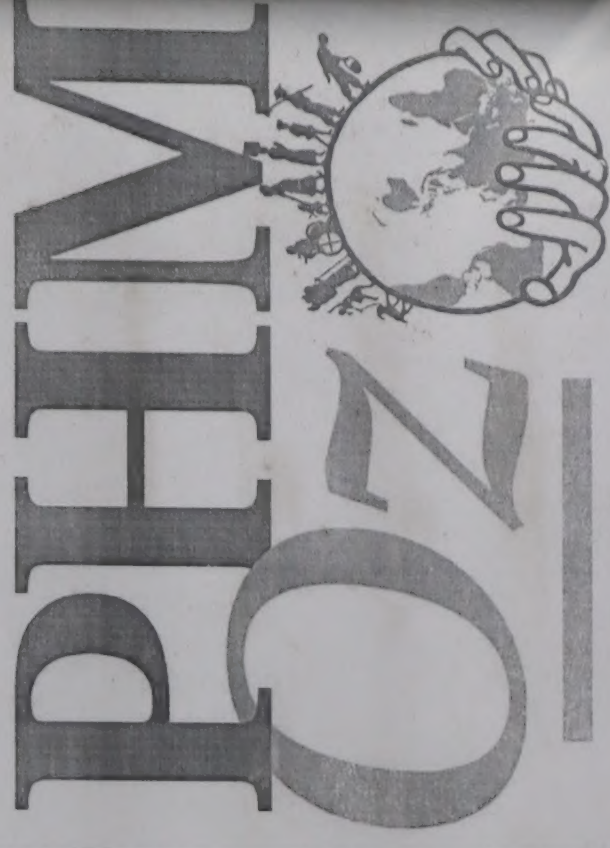
@baumfran

Plenary Address: 4th People's Health Assembly

Savar Bangladesh, 15th-19th November 2018

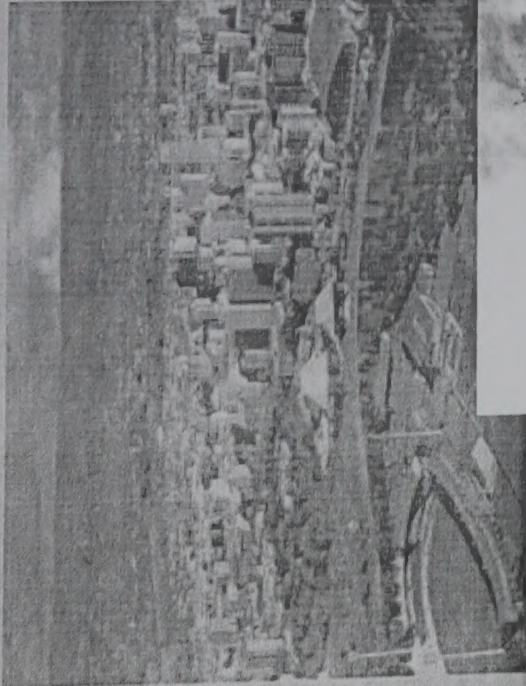
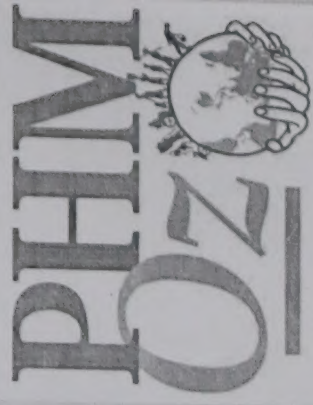


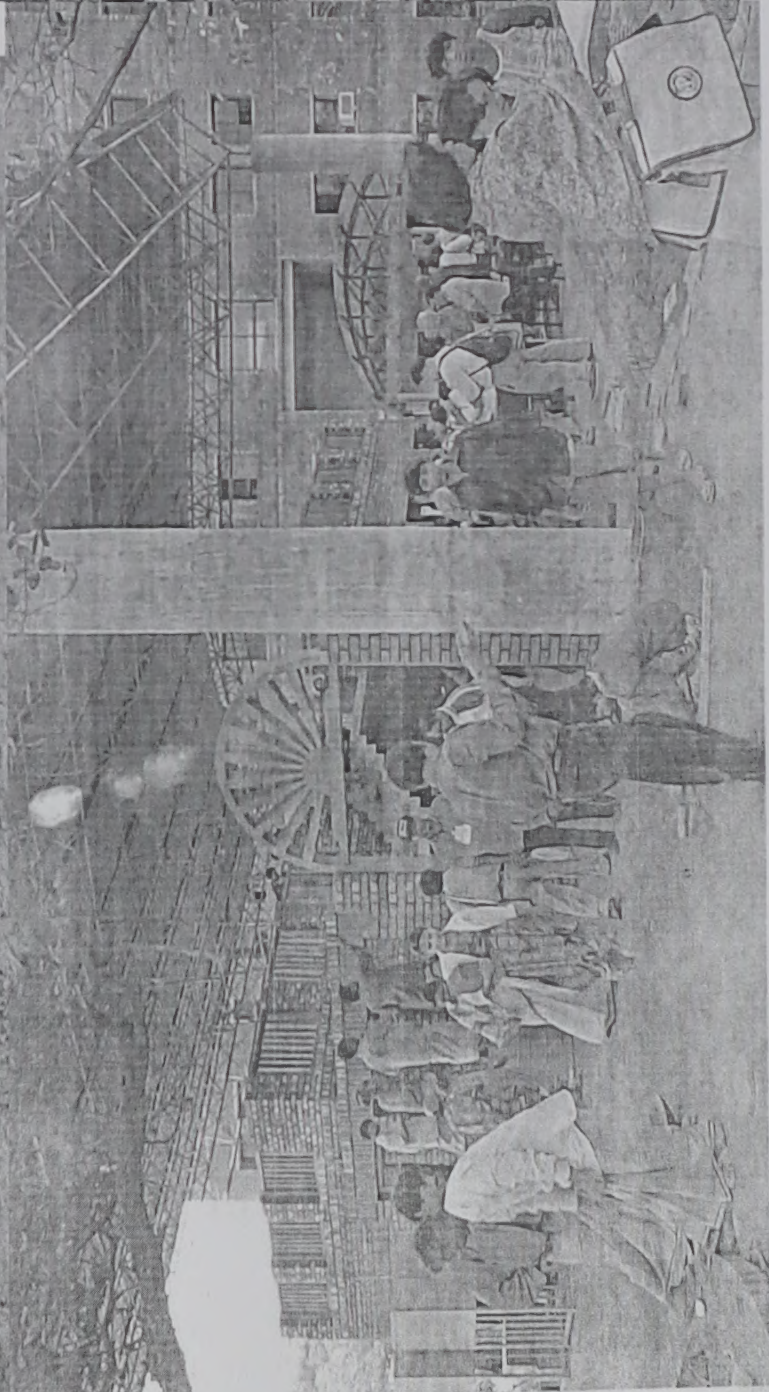
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inspiring achievement





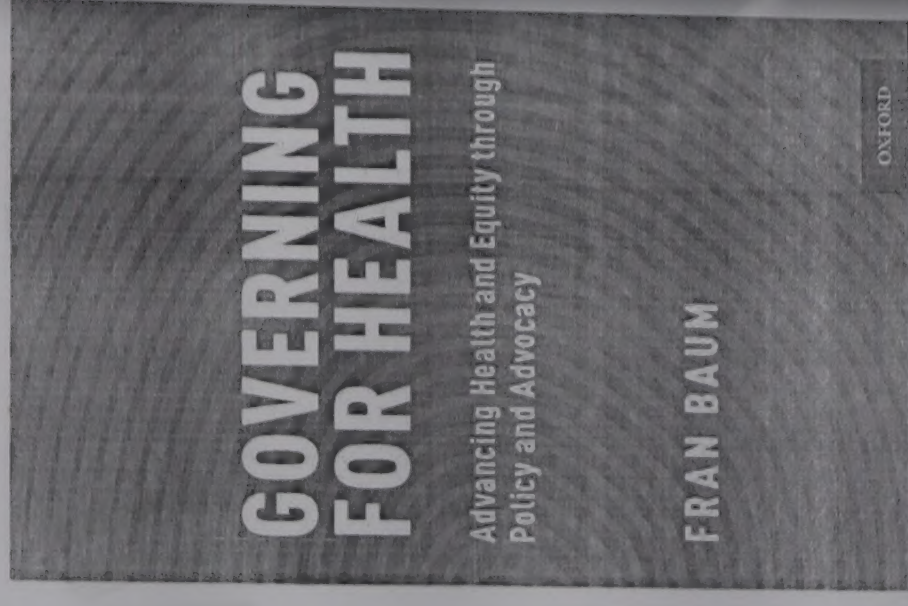
Greetings from the land of the Kaurna People, Adelaide, South Australia!





Overview

- Unequal distribution of health
- Whose health suffers most: people living in poverty, Indigenous peoples, Refugees, Children
- Overlapping crises
- Unequal economic system and social and ecological murder
- Governing for health not profit: examples



**People before profits
Health for All NOW!**

Figure 3. World wealth map 2010



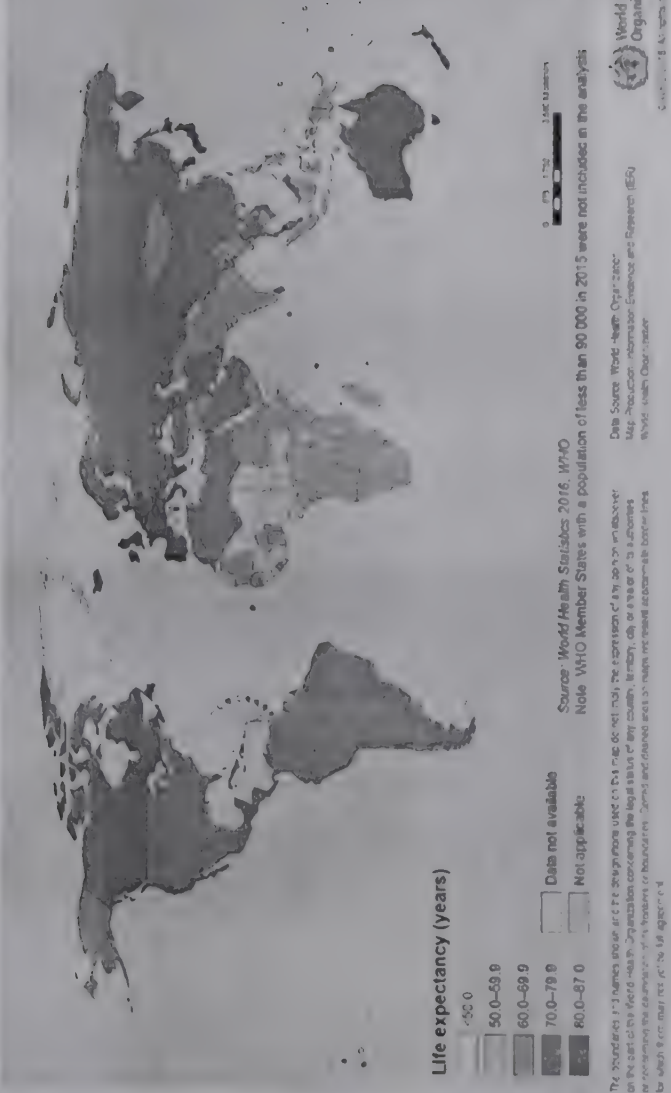
Wealth levels (USD):
Below USD 5,000
USD 5,000 to 25,000
USD 25,000 to 100,000
Over USD 100,000
No data

Source: James Davies, Rodrigo Luberas and Anthony Shorrocks. Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook 2018

- Low income countries life expectancy is 62 years while in high income countries it is 81
- Life expectancy is 50 in Sierra Leone and 84 in Japan

World Wealth and Life Expectancy maps

Life expectancy at birth
Both sexes, 2016



Life expectancy (years)

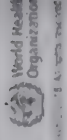
<50.0
50.0-59.9
60.0-69.9
70.0-79.9
80.0-89.9

Data not available
Not applicable

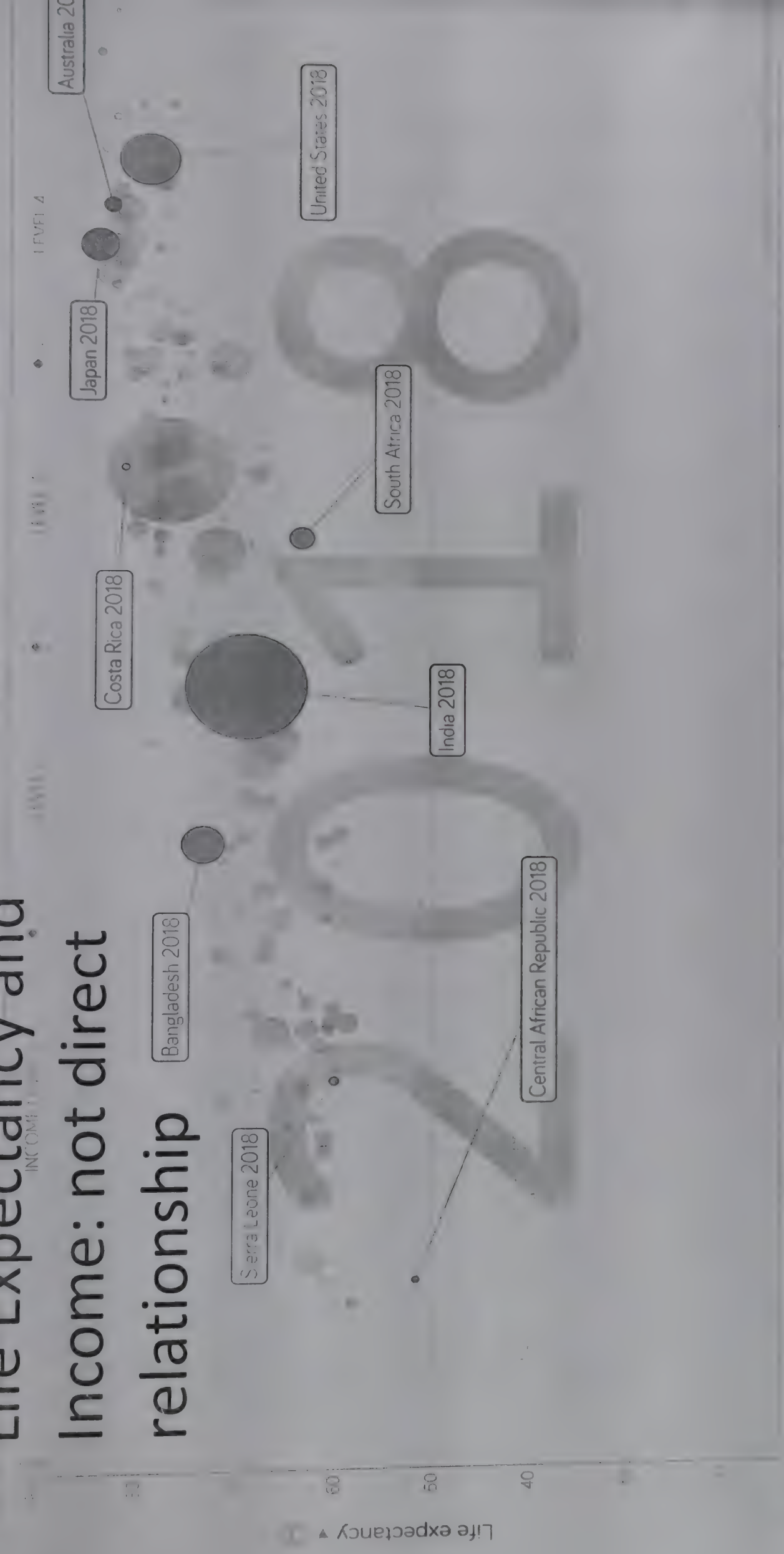
Source: World Health Statistics 2016, WHO
Note: WHO Member States with a population of less than 90 000 in 2015 were not included in the analysis

The boundaries and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities or concerning the demarcation of its boundaries. Japan and Taiwan are shown as separate entities for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: World Health Organization
Map Production: Information, Evidence and Research (IER)
World Health Organization



Life Expectancy and Income: not direct relationship



Child deaths

- Everyday 16,000 children die before they are 5
- They are 14 x more likely to do so in sub-Saharan Africa
- Children from poorest 20% of households are twice as likely to die before they are 5

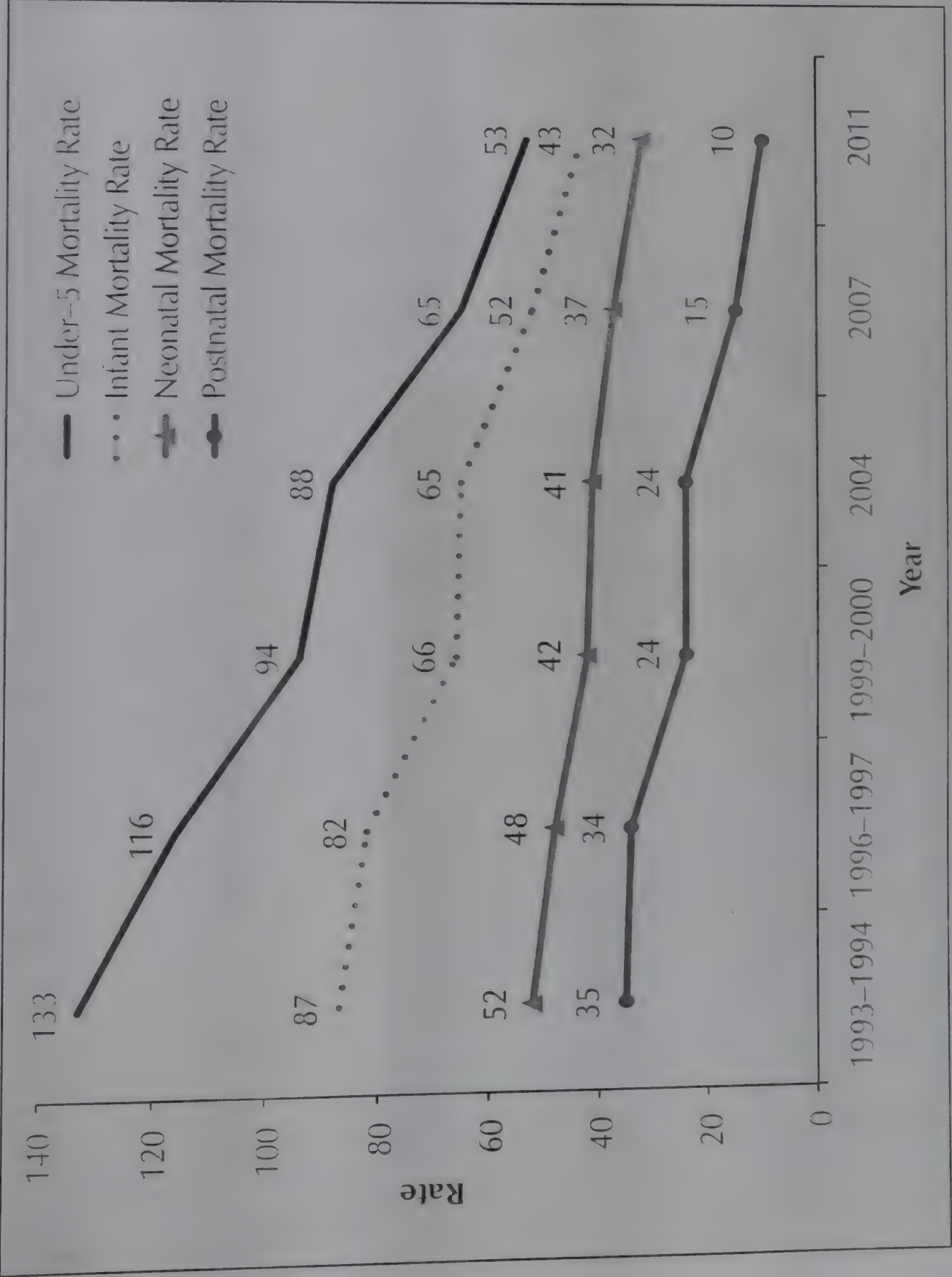


Under-five mortality (per 1000 live births) by wealth quintile



Data source: Demographic and Health Surveys. Survey data between 1996 and 2004.

Figure 5: Mortality trends in children in Bangladesh, 1993–2011



World-wide health crisis for Indigenous peoples and refugees

Colonisation: Language and land taken, Genocide, culture not valued

68.5 million displaced people including 24.5 refugees
2017: 2.9 million new asylum seekers

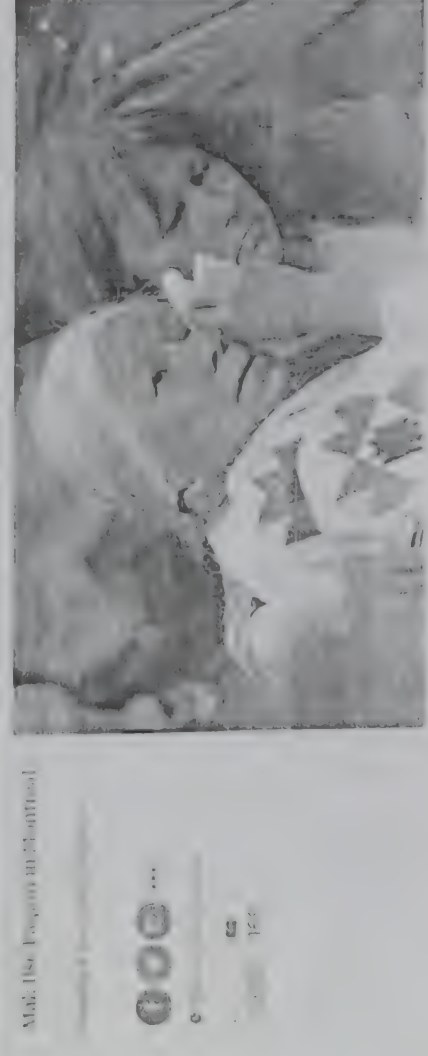


Deliberate public policies to wipe out Indigenous cultures



Canada confronts its dark history of abuse in residential schools

Leanne's story from a residential school is a painful journey through the pain of native children for more than a century and gives voice to survivors

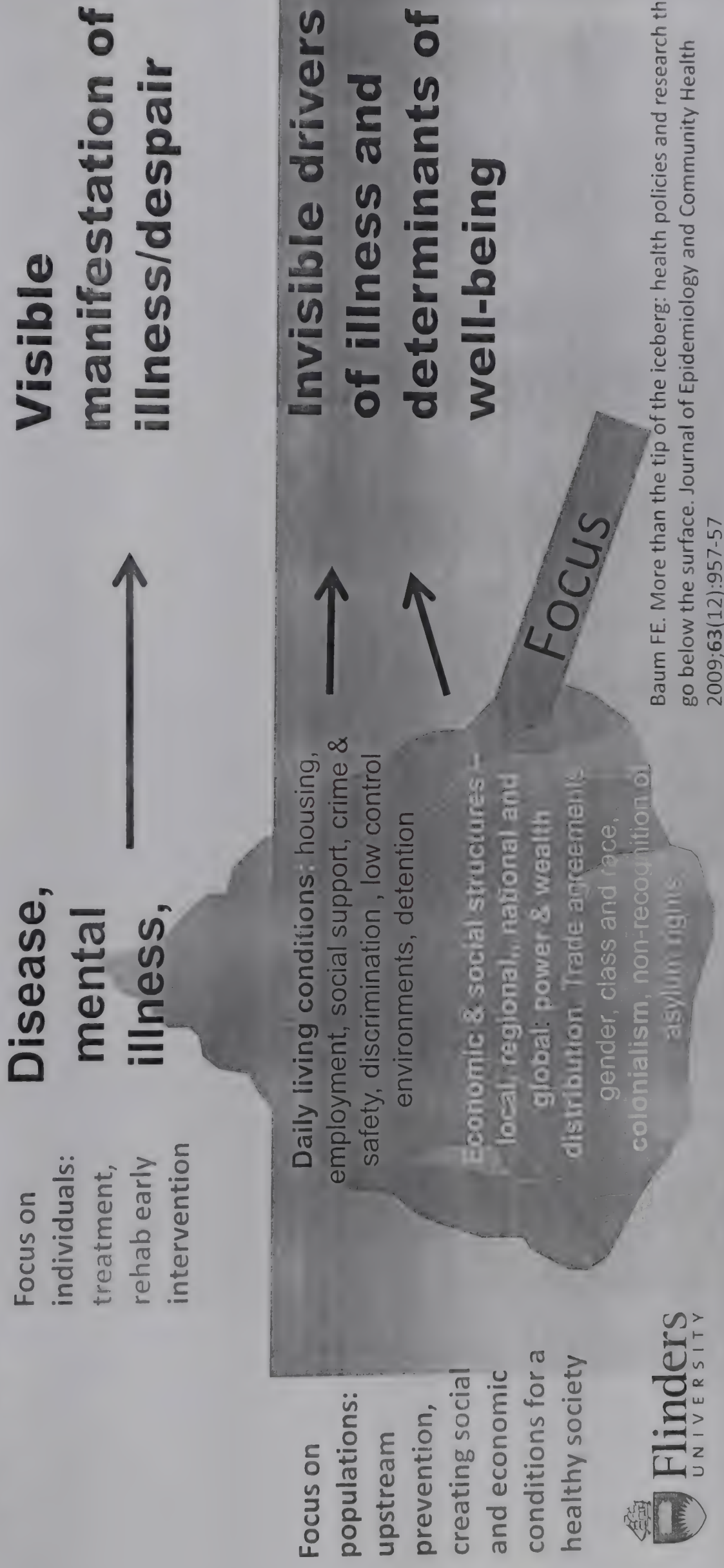


- Stolen Generation in Australia
- Residential boarding Schools in Canada
- Creation of reserves in US

Political exploitation of fear of difference: refugees and asylum seekers

[illegible]

Understand the iceberg: look below the surface



Baum FE. More than the tip of the iceberg: health policies and research that go below the surface. Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health 2009;63(12):957-57

World wealth compared with population

Continent	Total wealth (trillions USD)	Share	Population (2018)	% of world Population
World	280.3	100%	7.6 Billion	100%
North America	101.0	36.0%	363.8 Million	4.77%
Europe	79.6	28.4%	741.4 Million	9.83%
Asia-Pacific	55.0	19.6%	4.5 Billion	59.66%
Latin America	8.1	2.9%	654.2 Million	8.55%
Africa	2.5	0.9%	1.2 Billion	16.64%

2,208 Billionaires

Together they have US\$9.1

Trillion in wealth

THE 2018 LIST



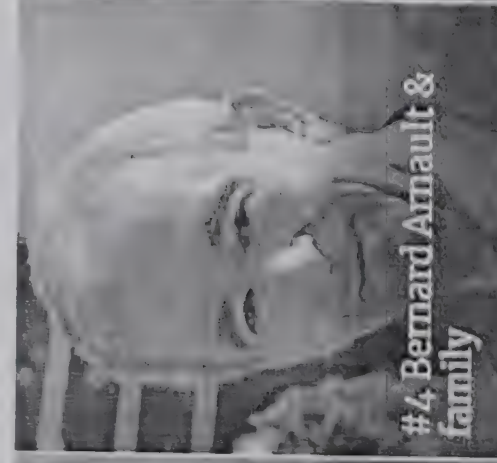
#1 Jeff Bezos



#2 Bill Gates



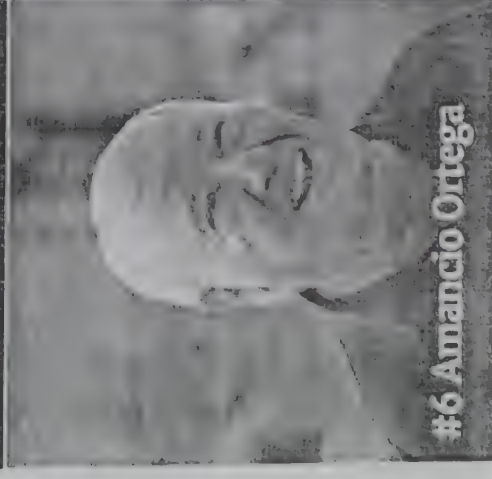
#3 Warren Buffett



#4 Bernard Arnault & family



#5 Mark Zuckerberg



#6 Amancio Ortega



#7 Carlos Slim Helu & family



#8 Charles Koch



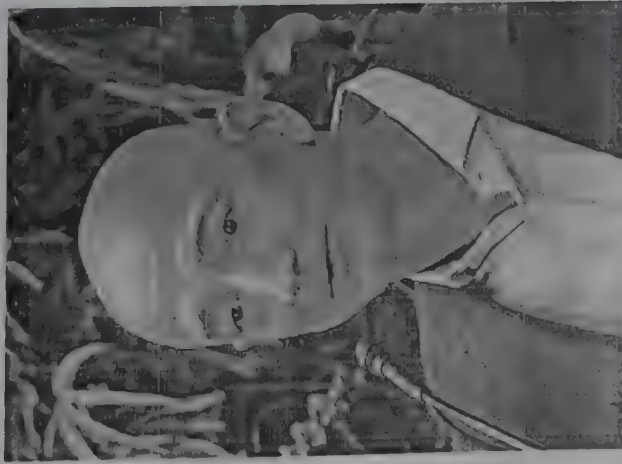
#8 David Koch



#10 Larry Ellison

Unequal world

- Jeff Bezos – richest man in the world
- Amazon
- Net worth US 150 billion
- (1 billion = one thousand million)
- **Malawi:** mean wealth US\$114
Bezos's wealth is equivalent to that of 8,771,930 Malawi people
- **Bangladesh:** mean wealth US\$ 2612
Bezos's wealth is equivalent to that of 382,263 Bangladeshi people



Unfair trade =
concentration
of wealth



Inequities Growing

- In 2017 82% of all wealth created in the last year went to the top 1%, while the bottom 50% saw no increase at all
- Data from Credit Suisse show 42 people now own the same wealth as the bottom 3.7 billion people
- The three richest people in the US own the same wealth as the bottom half of the US population (roughly 160 million people)
- Dangerous, poorly paid work for the many is supporting extreme wealth for the few.
Women are in the worst work, and almost all the super-rich are men.



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REWARD WORK, NOT WEALTH

To end the inequality crisis, we must build an economy for ordinary working people, not the rich and powerful.

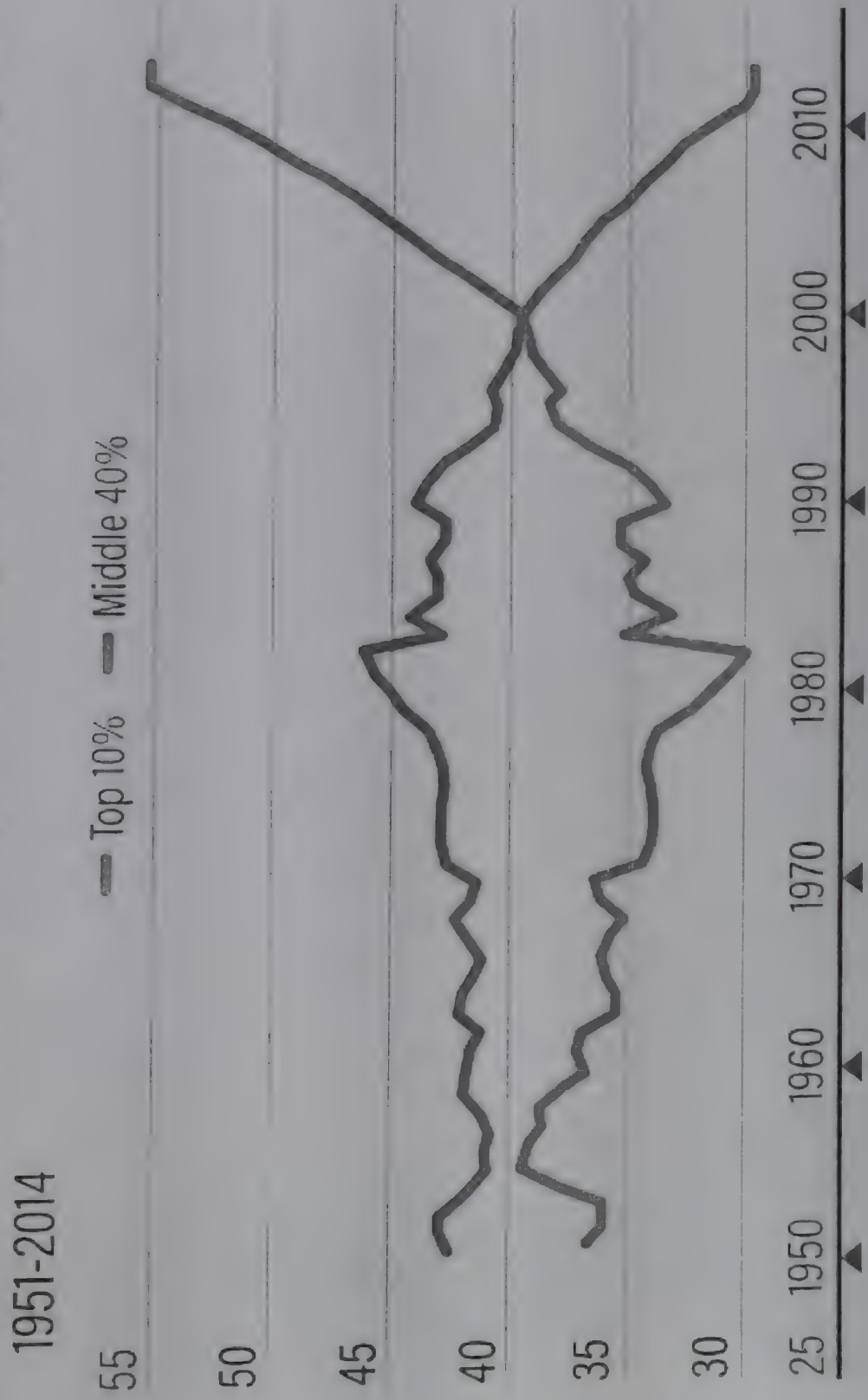
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EVEN
FY UP

www.evenfyup.com

India: income inequality

India income share: Top 10% compared with middle 40%



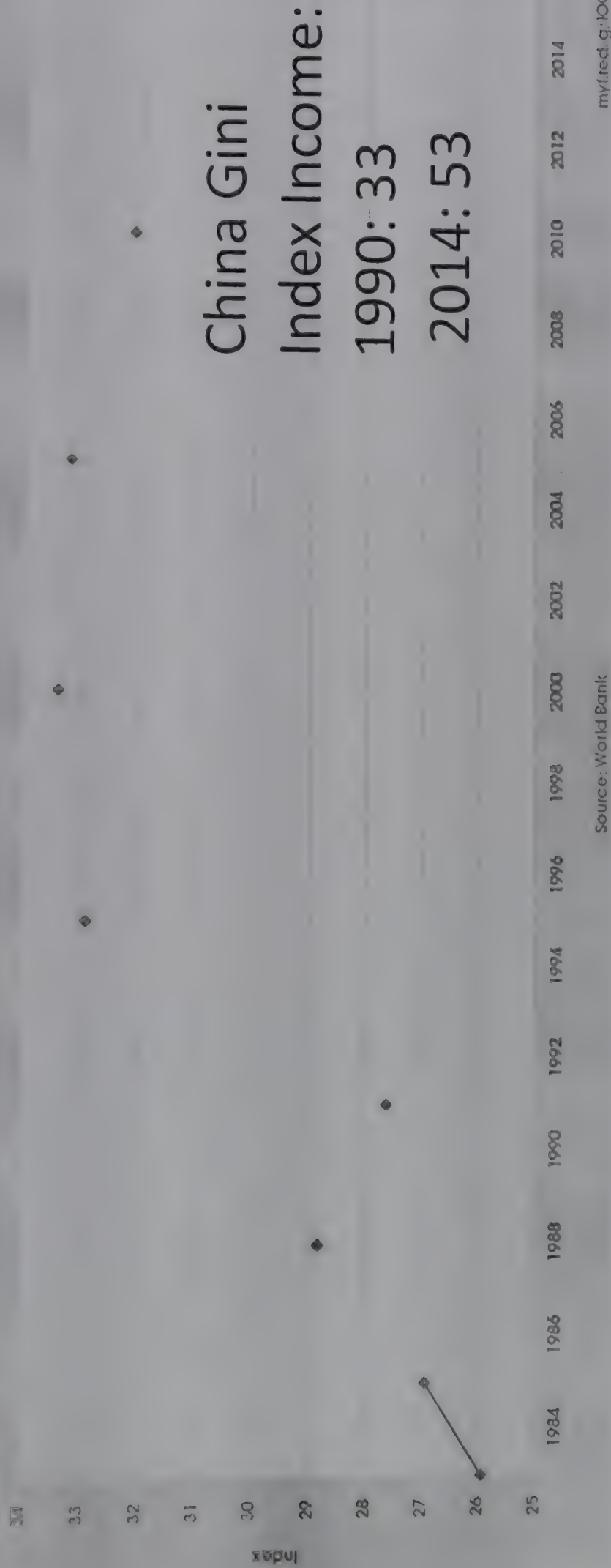
Source: wid.world

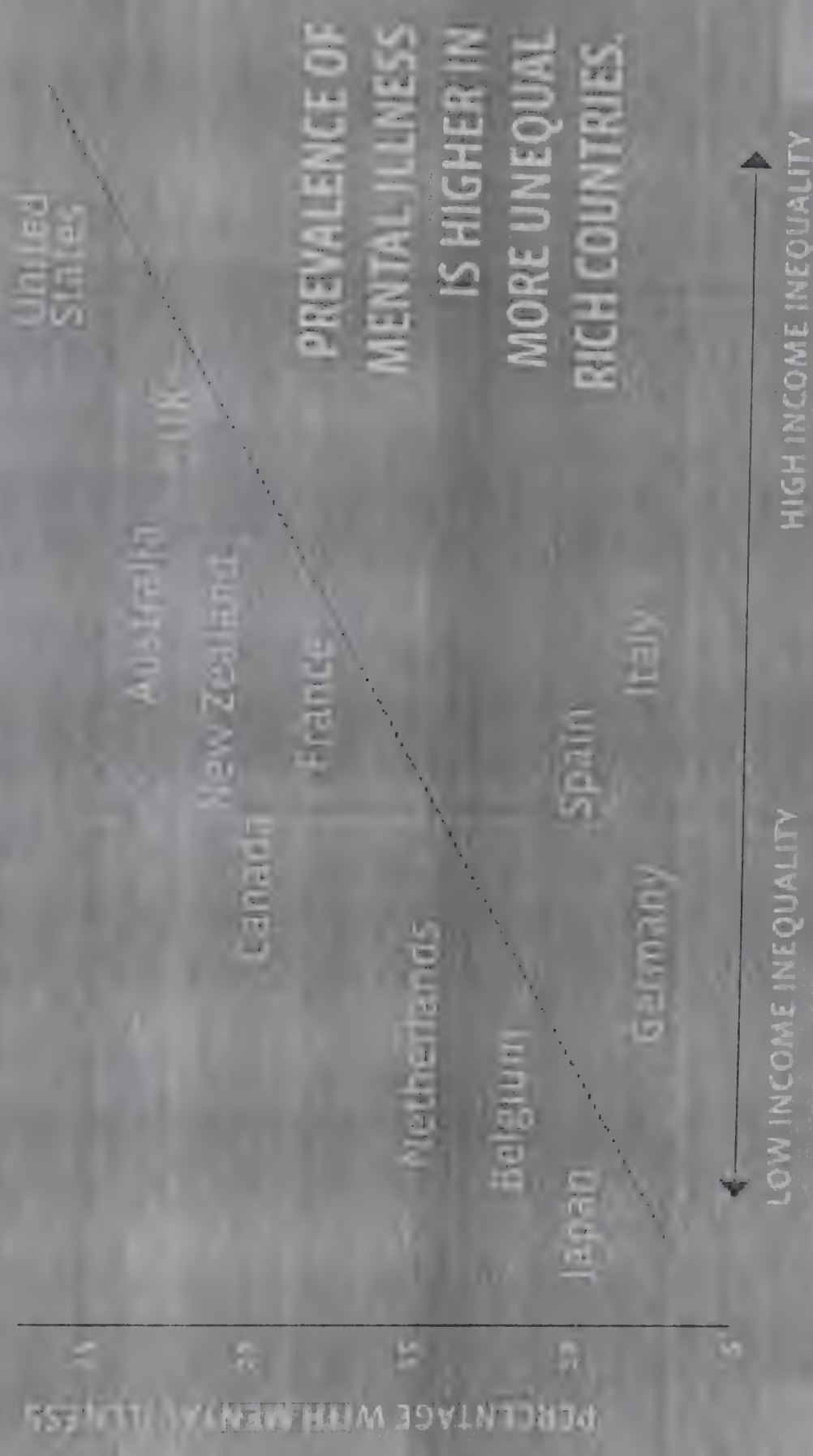
Gini co-efficient Income India:
1990: 45
2014: 51.4

Gini of wealth in India in 2017 is at 0.83, which puts India among countries with high inequality

GINI Index for Bangladesh

FRED  GINI Index for Bangladesh





PREVALENCE OF
MENTAL ILLNESS
IS HIGHER IN
MORE UNEQUAL
RICH COUNTRIES.

Source: World Health Organization, 1990

Corporations and health

- Profit before social, health and equity concerns
- Tax avoidance
- Huge salaries for Executives
- Powerful lobbies to encourage privatisation of key services – water, gas, electricity, prisons etc in past 30 years
- No evidence that privatisations have resulted in the price cuts or increased efficiencies promised
- Expensive regulation required and paid for by national budgets
- Environmental costs externalised



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Ecological disaster staring us in the face

“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.” Theodore Roosevelt

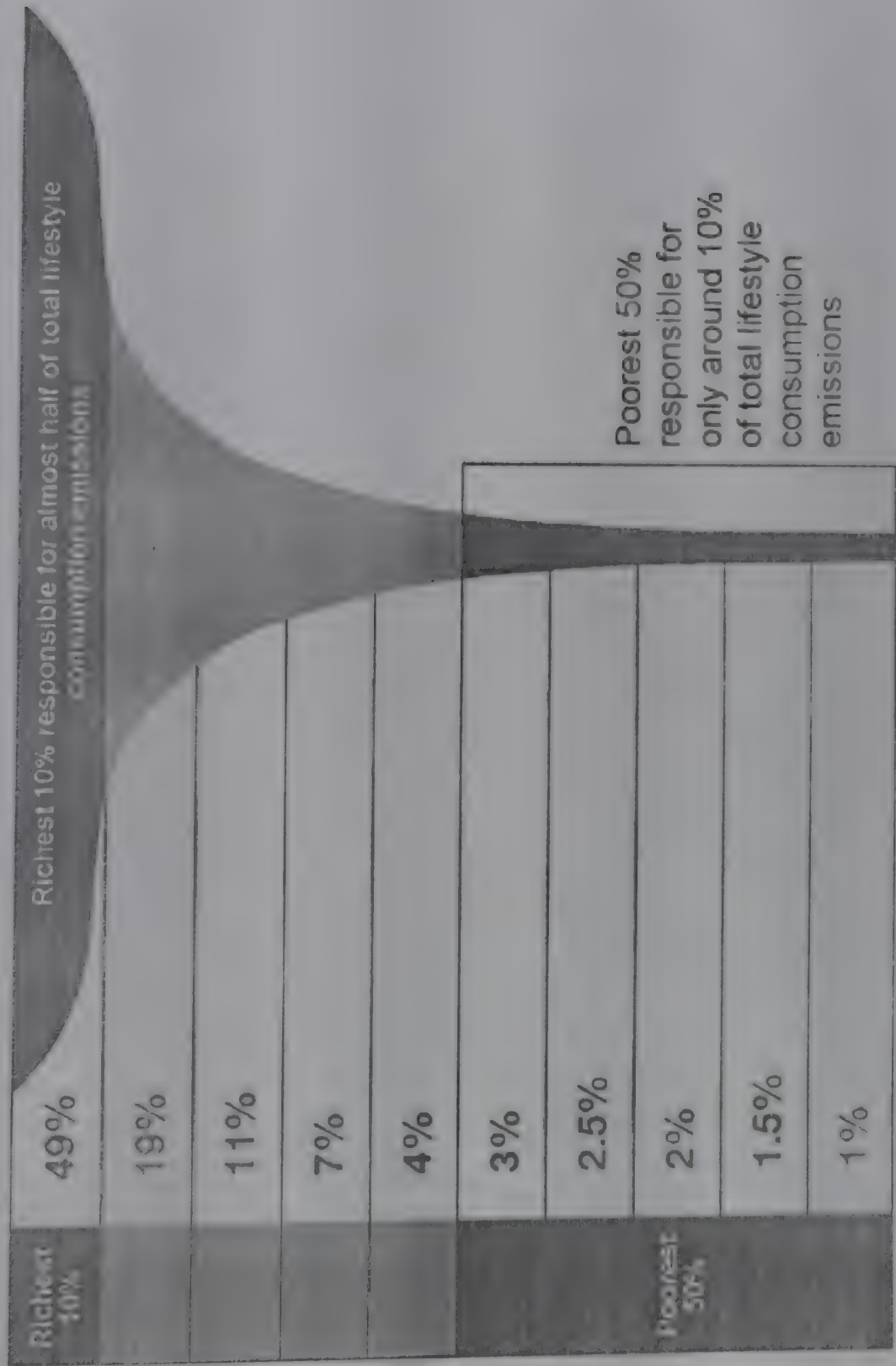
“Climate change is the defining health issue of the 21st Century.....A ruined planet cannot sustain human lives in good health”

Dr. Margaret Chan (2016a) WHO
Director General



Figure 1: Global income deciles and associated lifestyle consumption emissions

Percentage of CO₂ emissions by world population



Fake news, free speech threatened

**"The further a society
drifts from the truth,
the more it will hate
those that speak it."**

-George Orwell



- Politics of fear
- Fake news
- Evidence ignored
- Journalists persecuted and murdered
- Culture wars



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Overlapping Crises = social & ecological murder

Financial crisis

austerity
politics: low
wage growth
high profits

Health – inequities,
chronic disease, mental
illness, emerging
infectious diseases

Unfair global economic
and political system:

- Growing inequities
- Excess wealth for some
- Over-consumption and
under consumption
- Focus on profit above
all else

Institutional malaise
crisis

Restructuring,
redundancies, Banks
untrustworthy, profits
before people,
harshness, uncaring

Social crisis – isolation, declining
social capital. Lack of community
and solidarity, Terrorism,
fundamentalism

Ecological and climate
crisis – increasing
disasters

Political Leadership:
neo-liberal, pro-profit
not health, privatising
Declining trust, fake
news, politics of fear



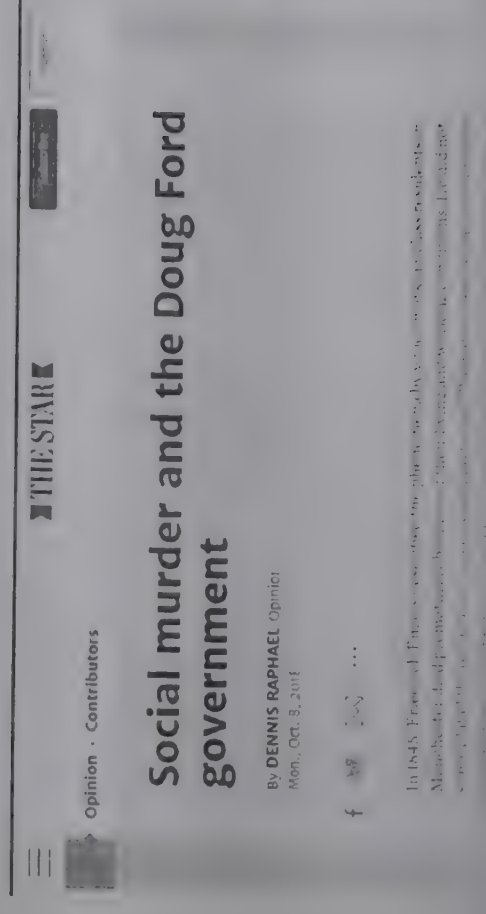
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Social murder

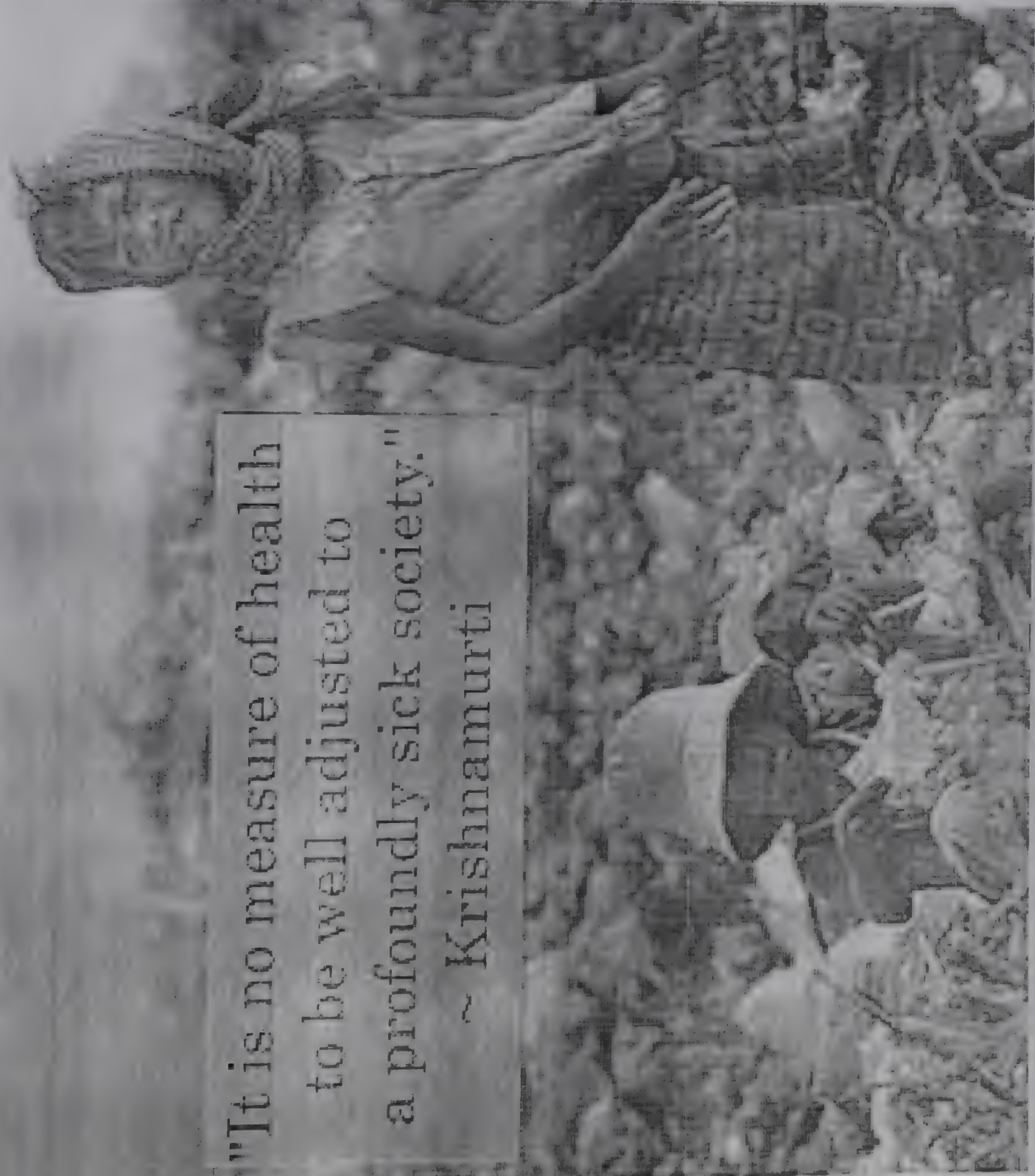
- "the class which at present holds social and political control places hundreds of proletarians in such a position that they inevitably meet a too early and an unnatural death".

Engels The Condition of the Working Class in England (1845)

- Social murder is happening across the world today



"It is no measure of health
to be well adjusted to
a profoundly sick society."
~ Krishnamurti



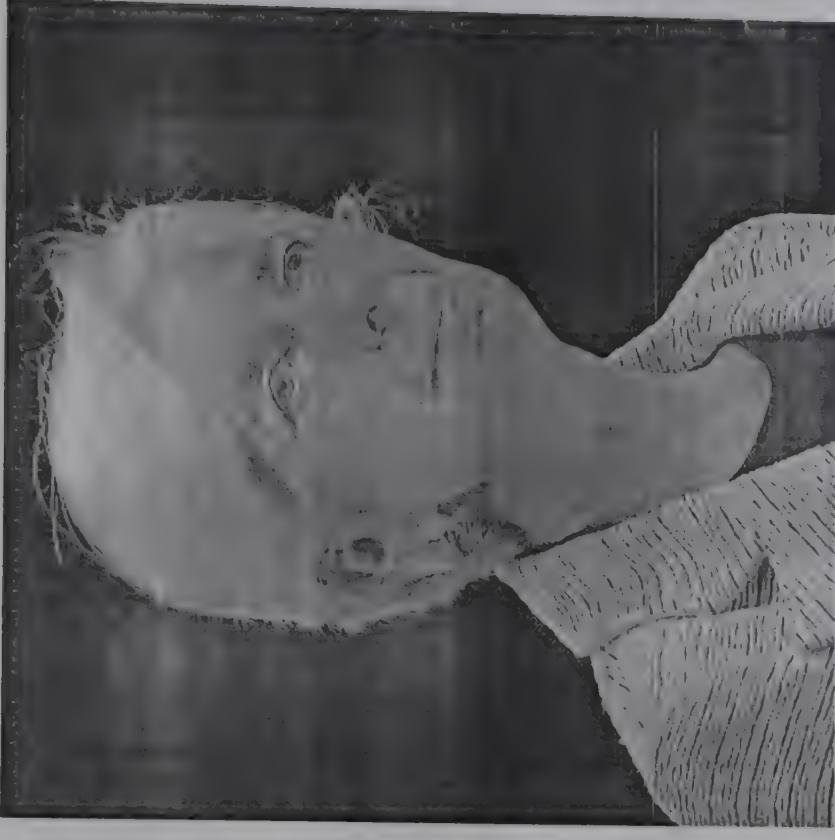
Governing for health rather than profit: examples of how we reduce social and ecological murder

- ❖ Fair economy: economic decisions for health not profit, taxation and taming corporations
- ❖ Measure health and well-being not just the economy
- ❖ Employment, homes and healthy environments
- ❖ Protect the environment from profit seekers



Even the beast itself says we need to be more equal: International Monetary Fund on inequities

- Christine Lagarde (2013) (Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund) has described inequality as corrosive to growth and society and considers it should be reduced
- IMF publish article (Ostry, et al, 2016) “Neo-liberalism oversold” and point to its role in growing inequities and express concern about the adverse impacts of inequities *“The evidence of the economic damage from inequality suggests that policymakers should be more open to redistribution than they are.”*

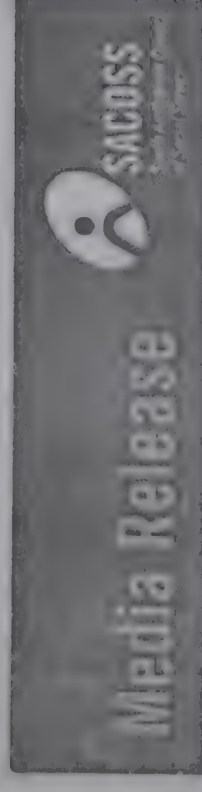
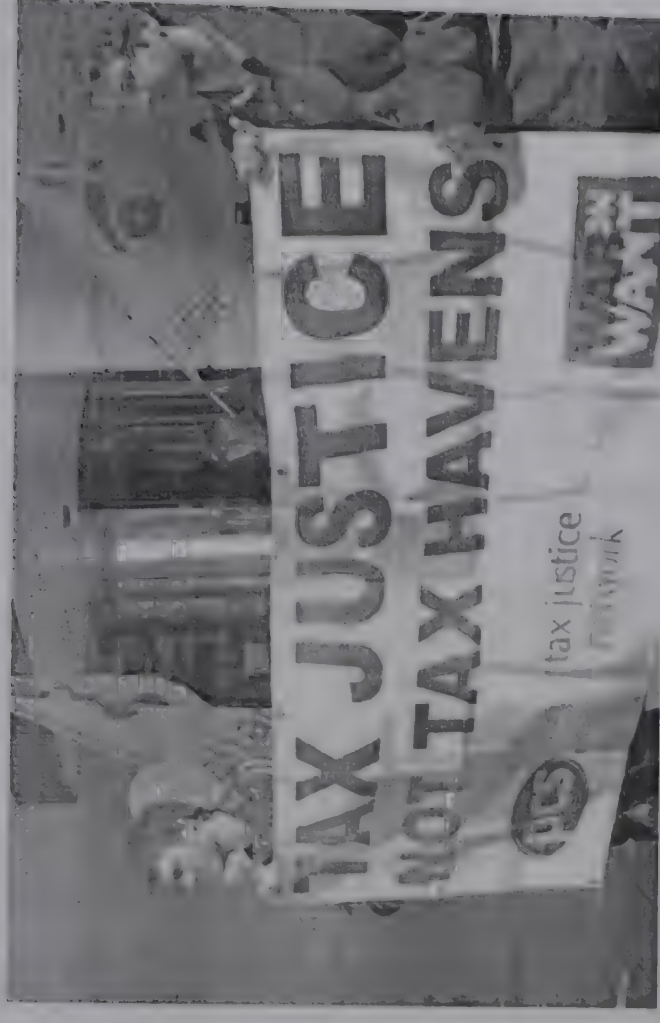


Govern for tax justice

- Shut down tax avoidance strategies
- Use progressive taxes to redistribute wealth
- Promote taxes as necessary for public goods and services vital to health
- Build on public willingness to pay taxes when they are used for common good and are fair



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Embargoed until 6am, Monday 25 November

SACOSS launches "pro-taxes" campaign:
Without taxes, vital services disappear.

SACOSS will today launch a campaign in the lead up to the state election, highlighting the threat posed by declining government revenue and calling on all parties to commit to restoring revenue to pre-GFC levels.



We don't want billionaires' charity. We want them to pay their taxes | ...

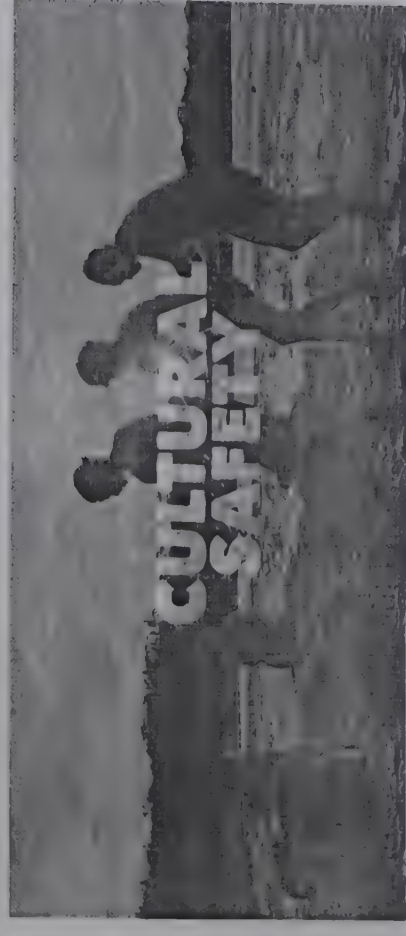
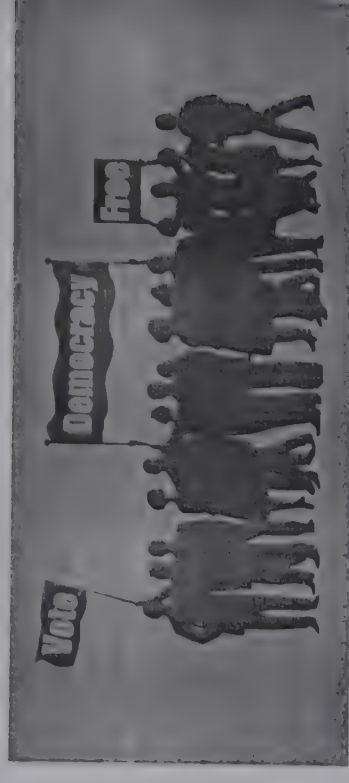
The super-wealthy should give their money to governments that know better how to spend it, says the Guardian columnist Owen Jones

[theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)

Imagine if the
Gates Foundation
Money had
instead been given
to the UN to
support WHO and
the
implementation of
the SDGs.

Transparency, Democracy and Inclusivity

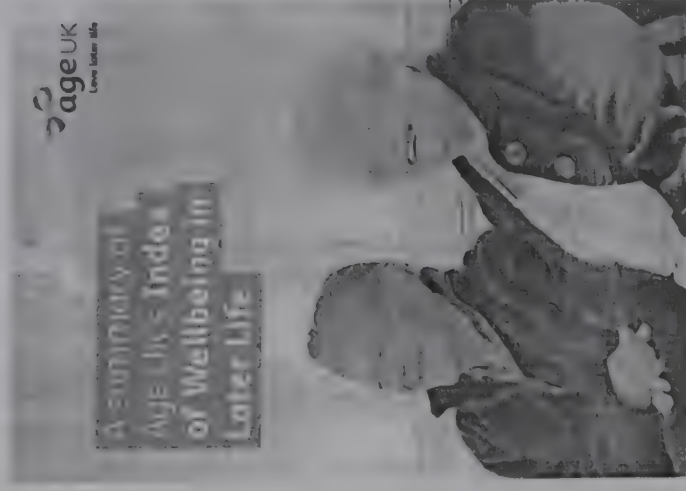
- Cultural diversity and safety
- Participation in political processes
- Meaningful participation for groups with limited economic and social power
- Limit lobbying by TNCs and other profit seekers
- Free press and independent investigative journalism



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Economic: measure what we treasure and create equity

- Measure national and global progress by:
 - Improvements in mental and physical health
 - Reductions in economic inequities in income and wealth
 - Fairness of trading and other economic systems



MIS-
MEASURING
OUR LIVES

WHY GDP DOESN'T ADD UP

by David Colander

with David Colander

and David Colander

and David Colander

and David Colander

and David Colander

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and David Colander

ageUK
Love Later Life

A Summary of
Age UK's Index
of Wellbeing in
Later Life



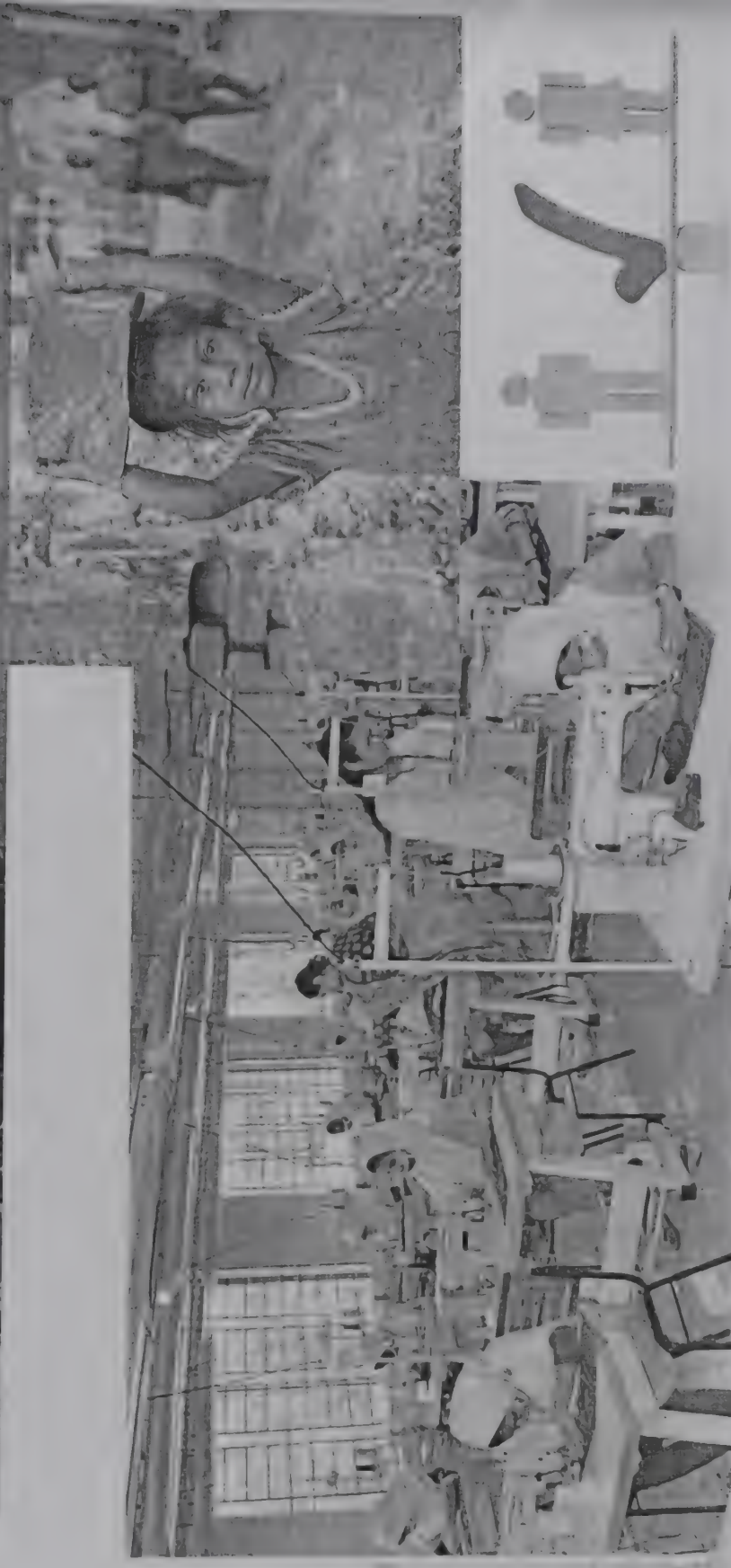
CANADIAN
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OF WELLBEING

Measuring what matters

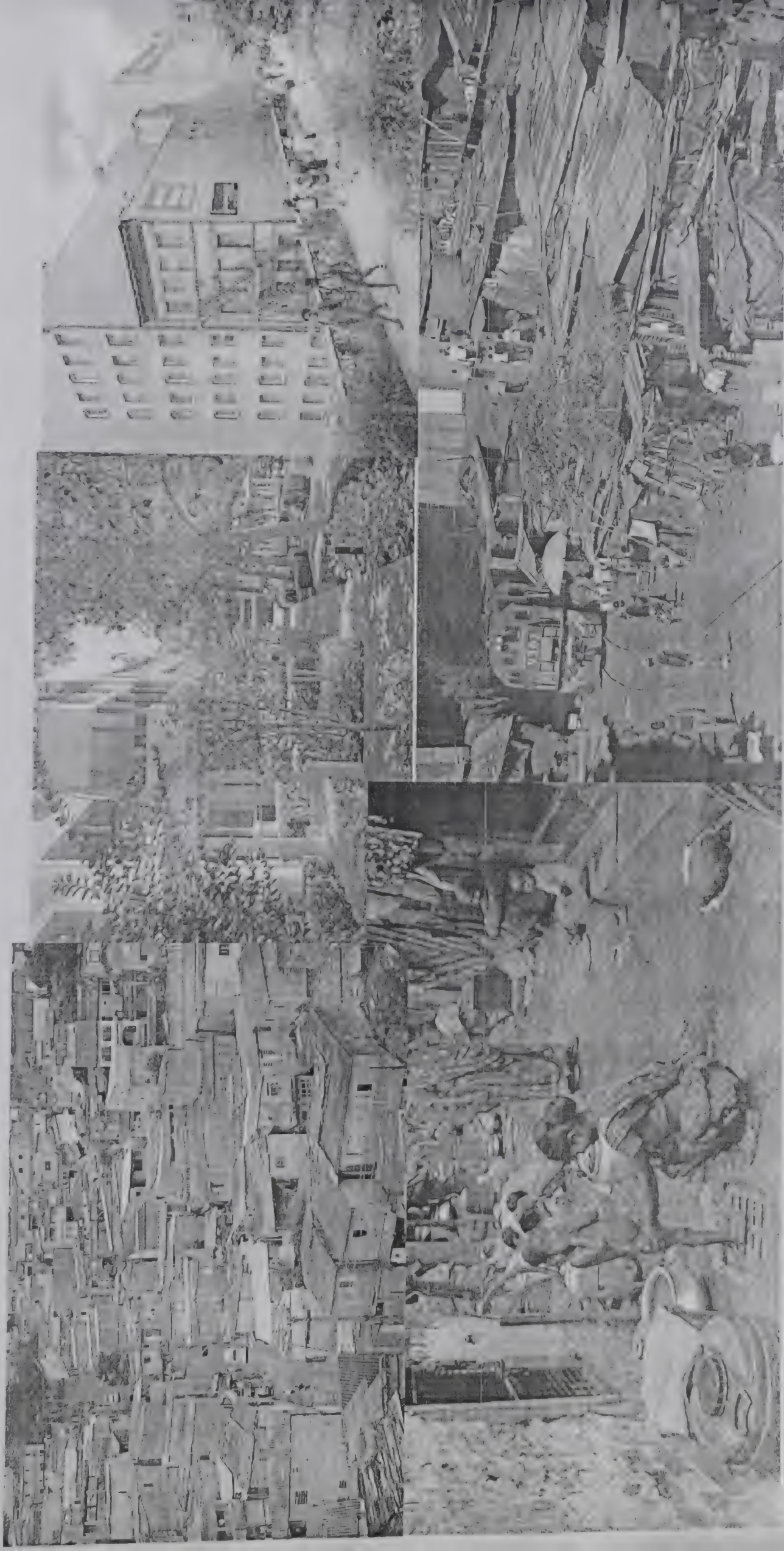
Making measures matter

Employment

- Create meaningful, secure work
- Liveable income support for those without work
- Gender equity
- Value unpaid work

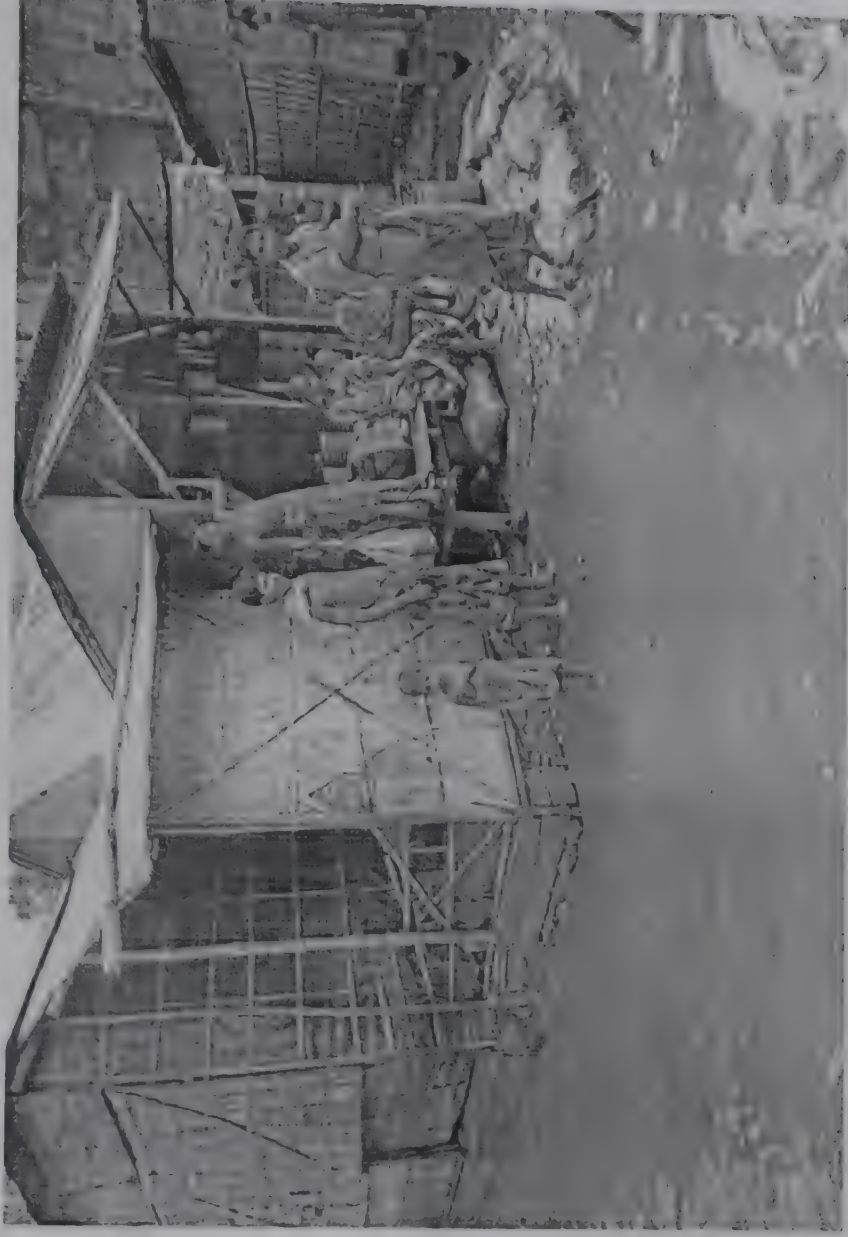


Housing and healthy environments for all



Govern to take notice of IPCC 2018 report: Limit Global Warming to 1.5 °C

“Limiting warming to 1.5°C will make it markedly easier to achieve the SDGs for poverty eradication, water access, safe cities, food security, healthy lives, and inclusive economic growth, and will help to protect terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity (medium evidence, high agreement)”.



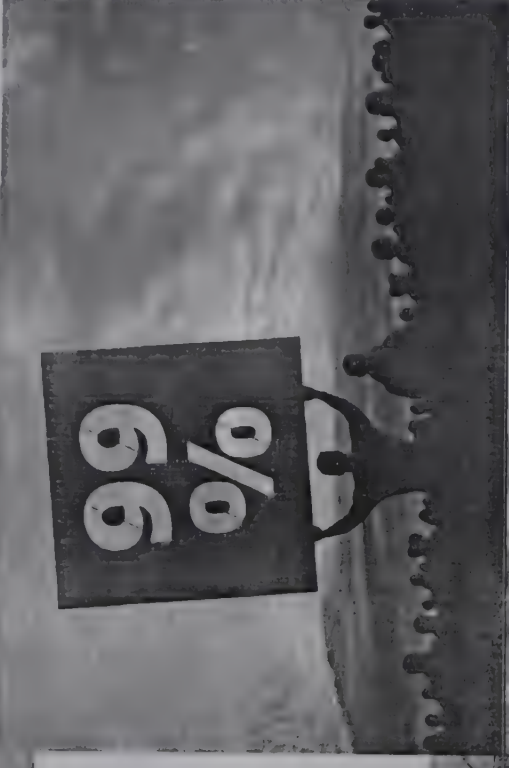
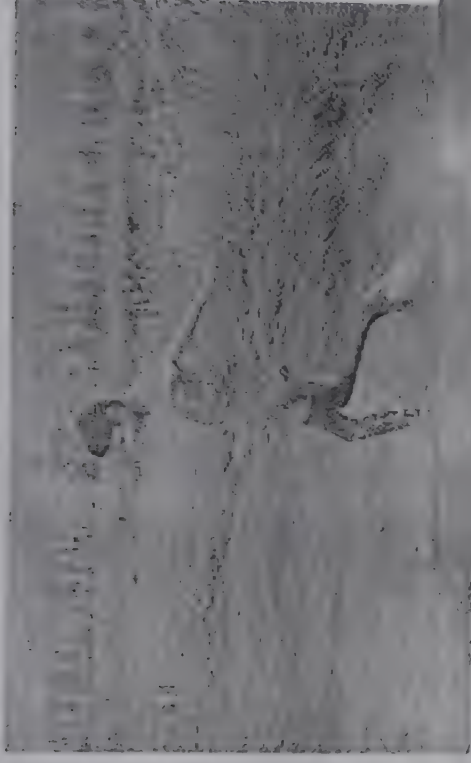
Govern for ecological health

- Tackle global warming
- Restore natural environments
- Protect biodiversity
- Biophillicia
- Buen Vivir and Indigenous knowledge on country and nature



Conclusion

- We need to:
- Govern for health and wellbeing
NOT profit
- Stop social murder
- Redistribute wealth
- Tame corporations
- Provide healthy employment
and housing for all
- Protect and value the natural
environment



The Spirit Level

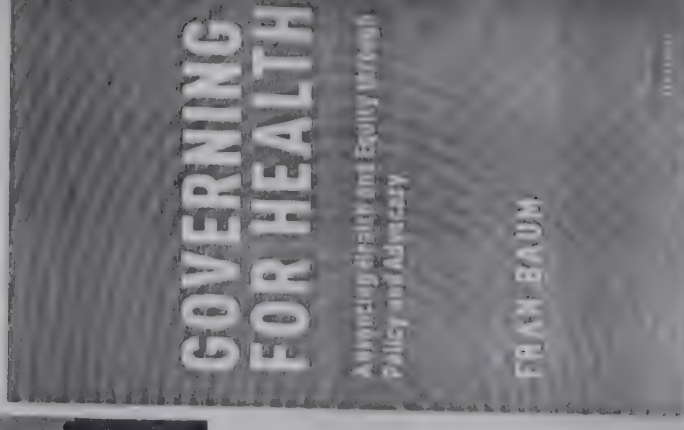
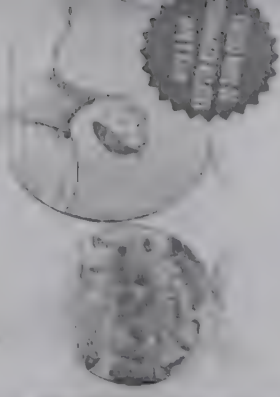
Why Equality

is Better for Everyone

Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett


'A big idea, big enough to change political thinking'
Sunday Times

'A sweeping theory of everything' Guardian



**PEOPLE BEFORE PROFITS
HEALTH FOR ALL NOW!**

@baumfran



It's no measure of health
to be well adjusted
to a profoundly sick society

Jiddu Krishnamurti

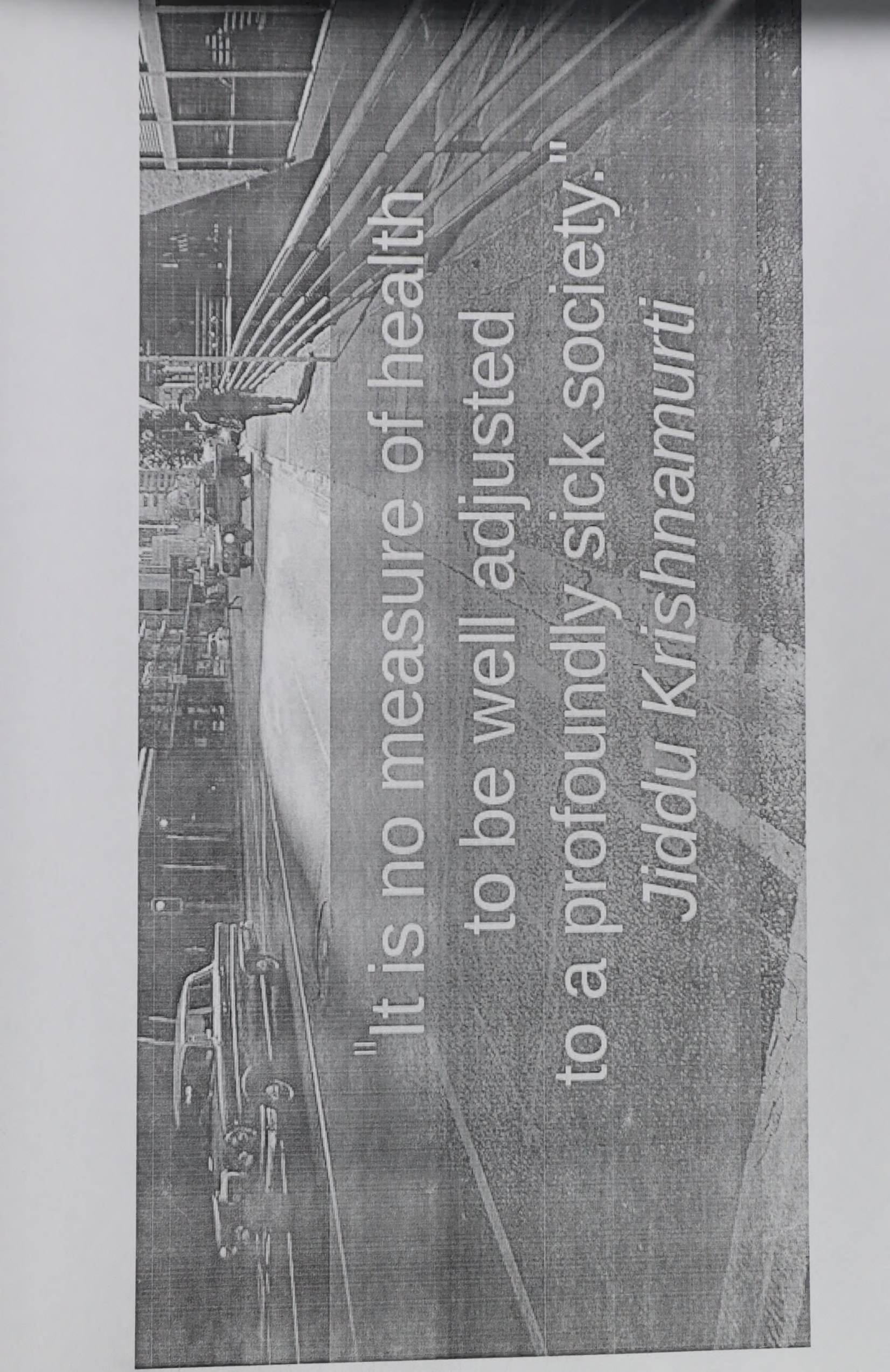
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Jiddu Krishnamurti





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